

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ORIGINAL

NOEL COWARD,

CV 14 -

6568

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

-against-

JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT and P.O. JOHN DOE (Full
Name and Shield Number presently unknown),

Defendants.



Plaintiff, NOEL COWARD, by his attorney, ROBERT L. DIGIANNI JR. as and for his

complaining of the defendants, hereby alleges the following:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff NOEL COWARD brings this action for compensatory damages, punitive damages and attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 42 U.S.C. § 1988 for violation of his civil rights, as said rights are secured by said statutes and the Constitutions of the State of New York and the United States.

JURISDICTION

2. The action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, § 1985 and § 1988, and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343(3) and (4) and the aforementioned statutory and constitutional provisions.

3. Plaintiff NOEL COWARD further invokes this Court's supplemental jurisdiction, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367, over any and all State law claims and causes of action which derive

from the same nucleus of operative facts and are part of the same case or controversy that gives rise to the federally based claims and causes of action.

VENUE

4. Venue is proper for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a), (b), (c) and § 1402(b) because the claims arose in this district and Plaintiff NOEL COWARD resides in this district.

JURY DEMAND

5. Plaintiff NOEL COWARD respectfully demands a trial by jury of all issues in this matter pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 38(b).

THE PARTIES

6. Plaintiff, NOEL COWARD ("Mr. Coward"), is and was at all relevant times hereto a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of Kings and State of New York.

7. Defendant, City of New York ("City"), is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.

8. Defendant, New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), is a charter agency of the City authorized to perform law enforcement functions in and for the City. Defendant City maintains the NYPD, a duly authorized public authority and/or police department, authorized to perform all functions of a police department as per the applicable sections of the New York State Criminal Procedure Law, acting under the direction and supervision of the aforementioned municipal corporation, City of New York.

9. Defendant, Police Officer JOHN DOE (Full Name and Shield Number presently unknown) ("P.O. Doe"), is and was at all times relevant hereto an employee of The City, duly

appointed and acting as a police officer in NYPD, acting in the course and scope of his employment as such and in furtherance of the interests and business of said employer.

10. Defendants, P.O. Doe, et ano., refers to known and unknown named police officers who were at all relevant times hereto employees of defendant NYPD and were acting under the supervision of said department and according to their official duties.

11. That at all times relevant herein, P.O. Doe was a supervisory employee of, and an agent, servant and/or employee of The City, acting in the course and scope of his employment as such and in furtherance of the interests and business of said employer, and otherwise performed and engaged in conduct incidental to the performance of his functions in the course of his duties. He is sued individually and in his supervisory capacity.

12. That at all times mentioned herein, the individual defendants were acting under color of state law, to wit, under color of statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, customs and usages of The City and the State of New York.

13. That at all times relevant herein, the City operated, maintained, managed, supervised and controlled a police department as part of and in conjunction with its municipal functions.

14. That at all times relevant herein, P.O. Doe et. ano. were employees of The City and NYPD and that The City and NYPD are responsible for the actions and conduct of the individual defendants under the theory of *respondeat superior*.

15. That at all times relevant herein, P.O. Doe was personnel of The City and NYPD.

16. That at all times hereinafter mentioned and upon information and belief, The City and NYPD employed and supervised P.O. Doe.

17. Upon information and belief, P.O. Doe was a graduate of the Police Academy of The City of New York, where they received training and instruction set forth and sanctioned by The City

and NYPD. Further, while at The Police Academy and intermittently thereafter, Patrol Officers and Police Officers including the named defendants receive training and instruction formulated by The City and NYPD and said training includes instruction as to custom and practice of The City and NYPD and same relates to the arrest procedure and procedure surrounding stops and frisks. Said custom and practice, and said training and instruction regarding arrests, stops and frisks, by the very nature of the custom and practice violate the civil rights of the public, including the plaintiff herein, and said custom and practice infringe upon the rights of the public at large, including the plaintiff herein. In this subject case, the enforcement of the said custom and practice did in fact violate the rights of the plaintiff herein.

18. At all times relevant hereto, The City had the duty to competently and sufficiently train, within the Police Academy and at the Command, Precinct and Patrol levels, P.O. Doe, to conform his conduct to a standard for the protection of individuals, such as plaintiff, against the unreasonable risk of harm by conducting himself in such a manner so as not to intentionally, wantonly and/or negligently inflict injuries to citizens such as plaintiff herein.

19. At all times relevant hereto, The City had the duty to competently and sufficiently train within the Police Academy and at the Command, Precinct and Patrol levels, P.O. Doe, in the protections of the rights of plaintiff under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

20. At all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, P.O. Doe was acting in his capacities as employee, agent or servant of The City.

21. At all times hereinafter mentioned, P.O. Doe was acting under color of law.

22. At all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendants' acts constituted state action.

23. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, P.O. Doe was on duty and/or acting as employees, agents or servants of The City and were also present at the same time and in the same place as plaintiff as aforesaid.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

24. That or about June 27, 2013, Mr. Coward was a lawful citizen abiding by all laws, statutes and ordinances of the State of New York and the United State of America.

25. That on or about June 27, 2013, at approximately 2:00 p.m. Mr. Coward was lawfully traversing upon the public sidewalk ("sidewalk") at about the premises located at 2100 Beekman Place in the County of Kings and State of New York.

26. That on or about June 27, 2013, Mr. Coward, without cause or justification was unlawfully stopped and detained by defendant police officers.

27. That on or about June 27, 2013, P.O. Doe and other officers of the 71st Precinct Station House subjected Mr. Coward to unwarranted questioning, a humiliating and invasive public search, were rude and unprofessional.

28. That on or about June 27, 2013, defendant police officers handcuffed Mr. Coward.

29. That on or about June 27, 2013, defendant police officers, without any cause or evidence, falsely arrested and imprisoned Mr. Coward.

30. That on or about June 27, 2013, defendant police officers charged Mr. Coward with PL 221.40 (criminal sale of marijuana 4th degree), 221.10 (criminal possession of marijuana 5th degree) and PL 221.05 (unlawful possession of marijuana); (Docket No.: 2013KN049591; NYSID No.: 8455685Y).

31. That on or about June 27, 2013, defendant police officers unlawfully detained Mr. Coward at the 71st Precinct Station House for approximately nine (9) hours and then transported him to Central Booking.

32. That on or about June 27, 2013, Mr. Coward's unlawful imprisonment continued at Central Booking for approximately thirteen (13) hours, totaling approximately twenty two (22) hours of unlawful imprisonment.

33. That on or about June 27, 2013, Mr. Coward was released from custody and the false charges against him were adjourned in contemplation of dismissal.

34. That on or about June 27, 2013, defendants should have dismissed the false charges based upon the fact that there was and remains no evidence to support or justify the arrest of Mr. Coward.

35. That on or about June 27, 2013, defendant's prosecutor violated his/her duty to the public and to the justice system by maliciously seeking an "ACD" in the interest of his/her own prosecutorial record, while seeking to deceive Mr. Coward and insisting that an ACD is the same as a dismissal.

36. That on or about June 27, 2013, defendant police officers, without cause or justification, insulted, humiliated, brutalized, battered, assaulted, falsely arrested and unlawfully imprisoned Mr. Coward.

37. That on or about June 27, 2013, as a result of aforementioned actions, Mr. Coward was caused to sustain personal injuries, pain and suffering, embarrassment, humiliation, and emotional distress due to the negligence, recklessness and/or intentional acts of the defendants within the scope of their employment.

38. That at all relevant times herein, Mr. Coward continuously acted in accordance with all police officers requests despite the frequent physical, verbal and emotional harassment and abuse by defendants.

39. That on or about June 27, 2013, P.O. Doe made false representations, accusations, allegations and complaints concerning Mr. Coward to agents, servants and/or employees of NYPD and The City and the Kings County District Attorney's Office acted on the representations of the defendants herein and initiated criminal proceedings against the plaintiff herein. Furthermore, the defendants knew that the District Attorney's Office would rely upon their representations and the defendants knew that the District Attorney's Office would file criminal charges and prosecute the plaintiff based upon their representations and the allegations and facts that these named individual defendants communicated to the District Attorney's Office.

40. Additionally, the individual defendants knew that the allegations that they communicated to the District Attorney's Office were false, exaggerated, inaccurate and untrue but they communicated said allegations nonetheless, knowing that plaintiff would be subjected to a criminal prosecution and knowing that the plaintiff's freedom and liberty would be jeopardized and, if convicted upon the false charges, plaintiff would be incarcerated, thereby losing his freedom and liberty. As will be discussed *infra*, the individually named defendants, state actors, were acting pursuant to a policy, custom and practice, which was formulated, designed and implemented by the defendant City and NYPD, and which policy, custom and practice required the individually named defendants to make a certain, predetermined number and amount of arrests each week, month and year, irrespective of the conditions or lack of criminal conduct that existed in their precinct or sector during their shifts or tours.

41. That these policies, customs and practices also encouraged, taught, instructed and/or required police officers to make arrests, stops, detentions and to target members of the public based on their appearance, race, ethnicity and irrespective of their conduct, lawful or otherwise, thereby violating the rights of the public, including the plaintiff herein.

42. These policies, customs and practices were designed and formulated by the defendants City and NYPD and implemented and effectuated by its officers, by their very nature violated the rights of the public, and violated the rights of the plaintiff herein.

43. That at all times relevant herein, the agents, servants and/or employees of NYPD and The City, including, but not limited to, P.O. Doe, knew or reasonably should have known that Mr. Coward was innocent of all allegations against him.

44. That at all times relevant herein, the agents, servants and/or employees of NYPD and The City, including, but not limited to, P.O. Doe, actually knew or reasonably should have known that the allegations against Mr. Coward were fabricated and fraudulent.

45. That at all times relevant herein, the agents, servants and/or employees of NYPD and The City, including, but not limited to, P.O. Doe, conspired to fraudulently and maliciously accuse Mr. Coward of crimes of which he was innocent ("the malfeasance").

46. That defendants knew, and/or reasonably should have known, that there was no basis whatsoever to charge Mr. Coward under the false charges.

47. Moreover, the complete and utter lack of merit and baseless nature of any conceivable criminal investigation and/or criminal prosecution of Mr. Coward was readily apparent and patently obvious to all defendants but yet said criminal investigation and/or criminal prosecution of Mr. Coward continued unabated, causing serious injury to Mr. Coward and infringing, violating and rupturing his civil rights.

48. That defendants' their agents, servants, and/or employees unlawfully and falsely arrested and imprisoned Mr. Coward in furtherance to the malfeasance.

49. That at all times relevant herein, P.O. Doe used excessive force and physical force upon Mr. Coward causing him to sustain severe and permanent injuries, despite the fact that plaintiff did not pose a threat to the physical safety of either officer, or to the public at large, or to any third party. Furthermore, the defendants used excessive force against the plaintiff despite the plaintiff's submissive and non-threatening conduct, which was duly deferential and respectful of the defendants' apparent authority as law enforcement officers and/or state actors engaged in a law enforcement capacity.

50. That at all times relevant herein, during the unlawful apprehension, detention, arrest, imprisonment, assault and battery of Mr. Coward, the NYPD police officers used excessive, unnecessary and unwarranted force upon Mr. Coward, without his consent and without justification or legal basis.

51. That at all times relevant herein, notwithstanding that the apprehension, arrest, detention and imprisonment was unjust, unwarranted, without cause, with excessive force and unlawful, Mr. Coward complied with the officers' commands and did not resist.

52. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees, while acting in concert, maliciously and with the intent to injure Mr. Coward, and without just cause or any right to do so, handcuffed, detained, jailed and restrained Mr. Coward against his will, thereby depriving him of his liberty.

53. That the criminal charges filed against Mr. Coward were falsely and maliciously fabricated by defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees based on false and incomplete

information provided by defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees, in violation of Mr. Coward's civil rights and in furtherance of the malfeasance.

54. That at all times relevant herein, P.O. Doe, with disregard for proper, lawful, appropriate, correct and effective investigative behaviors and procedures, investigated, stopped, detained, accused, arrested and charged Mr. Coward when it was not right, just, lawful, proper or necessary to do so.

55. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees had no cause or basis to stop, question or search Mr. Coward.

56. That at all times relevant herein, P.O. Doe falsely arrested Mr. Coward for no reason and without probable cause to do so.

57. That at all times relevant herein, P.O. Doe placed Mr. Coward under arrest for crimes that he did not commit.

58. That at all times relevant herein, Mr. Coward was innocent of the false charges made against him further to the malfeasance.

59. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees acted maliciously and intentionally.

60. That at all times relevant herein, the arrest, assault, battery and detention of Mr. Coward were unlawful, unwarranted and unjustified.

61. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees knew or should have known that Mr. Coward was innocent of the crime charged.

62. That at all times herein mentioned, and without proof that Mr. Coward was in any way connected to a crime, or that any crime was, in fact, committed, and without reasonable suspicion to stop Mr. Coward, and without probable cause to detain or arrest Mr. Coward,

defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees individually, and acting in concert, knowingly, unlawfully, wrongfully and in furtherance of the malfeasance fabricated the false charges against Mr. Coward and set these charges forth in false and fabricated criminal complaints, falsely sworn by the defendant police officers.

63. The criminal complaint and reports against plaintiff were and are false and fraudulent.

64. Based upon the false criminal complaint and complaint reports prepared, upon information and belief, by the defendant employees, the Criminal Court arraigned Mr. Coward on the false charges.

65. That at all times herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees, all of whom were acting in the performance of their employment, within the scope of their authority and in furtherance of policies and practices implemented by The City and NYPD.

66. That at all times herein, said policies and practices included the implementation of a quota system with respect to the quantity of arrests expected and/or required of its police officers, including the aforesaid police officers.

67. That at all times herein, said policy and practice violated the civil rights of the public, including Mr. Coward herein.

68. That at all times herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees who participated in the arrest and investigation, imprisonment and prosecution of Mr. Coward were following a custom and practice of retribution and retaliation taken on behalf of P.O Cheung and P.O. Doe against Mr. Coward.

69. That at all times herein, P.O. Doe caused the unlawful investigation of Mr. Coward and the false arrest, unlawful imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

70. That at all times herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees have an unlawful policy and practice that utilizes racial profiling when conducting investigations and performing its duties.

71. That Mr. Coward was released from Central Booking after seeing the judge.

72. That Mr. Coward was required to repeatedly appear in court to defend himself from the false charges.

73. Mr. Coward has suffered and continues to suffer psychological and emotional injuries and damage as a result of the events described herein.

74. That the aforesaid assault, battery and abuse of authority was not the first incident wherein P.O. Doe committed acts of misconduct while on duty as members of NYPD.

75. That NYPD and The City had actual and constructive notice of P.O. Doe's propensities for violence and misconduct but failed to do anything to mitigate the danger that their continued employment presented to the public at large, including the plaintiff herein.

76. That at all times relevant herein, the NYPD and The City did fail to train and/or retrain and/or reinstruct P.O. Doe after acquiring notice of their defective and dangerous propensities. The NYPD and The City did negligently hire, retain and train the individually named police officer defendants to the detriment of the public and to the plaintiff herein.

77. By reason of the foregoing acts of the defendants, and as a direct and proximate result of the acts of the defendants, Mr. Coward suffered severe and permanent personal injuries and damages, and upon information and belief, will continue to suffer pain in the future.

78. By reason of the foregoing acts of the defendants, Mr. Coward was caused severe and intense emotional and psychological anguish, distress and embarrassment and will continue to suffer same in the future.

79. By reason of the foregoing, Mr. Coward was compelled to and did necessarily, require medical attention and did necessarily pay and become liable therefore, and will necessarily continue to incur similar expenses in the future.

80. By reason of the foregoing, Mr. Coward was compelled to, and did necessarily incur legal fees and did necessarily pay and become liable therefore, and will necessarily incur similar legal fees in the future.

PROCEDURAL PREREQUISITES

81. On or about August 19, 2013, Mr. Coward filed a Notice of Claim against the defendants pursuant to General Municipal Law §50h.

82. The aforesaid Notice of Claim was duly served upon the defendants within ninety (90) days after the causes of action of plaintiff accrued.

83. More than thirty (30) days have elapsed since the service of the Notice of Claim upon the defendants.

84. That on December 5, 2013, Mr. Coward was present for an examination pursuant to GML § 50-h.

85. The defendants and the comptroller have failed, neglected, and refused to pay, settle, compromise, or adjust the claim of the plaintiff herein.

86. This action has been commenced within three (3) years after the cause of action of plaintiff accrued.

87. Plaintiff has duly complied with all of the conditions precedent to the commencement of this action.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FALSE ARREST

88. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 87, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

89. Defendants had no probable cause to believe that plaintiff had committed a crime and plaintiff did not engage in any conduct that warranted his arrest.

90. As a result of the aforesaid conduct by defendants, Mr. Coward was subjected to an illegal, improper and false arrest by the defendants and taken into custody and caused to be falsely imprisoned, detained and confined without probable cause, privilege or consent.

91. By reason of their aforesaid conduct, defendants falsely arrested the plaintiff and thereby violated his rights under New York state law and under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

92. That solely as a result of the negligence, recklessness and/or intentional acts of defendants as aforesaid, Mr. Coward suffered great humiliation, degradation, emotional injuries; loss of freedom; deprivation of his state and federal constitutional rights; serious, severe and permanent personal injuries and disabilities; pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life; economic harm; was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled; sustained severe mental anguish, nervous shock and great physical pain and has been damaged accordingly in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT

93. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 92, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

94. By reason of defendants' aforesaid conduct, plaintiff was detained without his consent and defendants knew he was detained against his consent.

95. That solely as a result of the negligence, recklessness and/or intentional acts of defendants as aforesaid, Mr. Coward suffered great humiliation, degradation, emotional injuries; loss of freedom; deprivation of his state and federal constitutional rights; serious, severe and permanent personal injuries and disabilities; pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life; economic harm; was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled; sustained severe mental anguish, nervous shock and great physical pain and has been damaged accordingly in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

**AGAINST INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS AFFORDED BY
42 U.S.C. §1983, §1985 AND §1988**

96. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 95, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

97. The defendants, acting in concert and individually and under the color of law, have deprived the plaintiff of his civil, constitutional and statutory rights and have conspired to deprive

the plaintiff of such rights under 4th and 14th amendments and are liable to the plaintiff under the 5th amendment, 8th amendment, 42 U.S.C. §1983, §1985 and §1985.

98. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff suffered injuries including but not limited to severe and permanent personal physical injuries, loss of freedom, loss of enjoyment of life, had his civil rights violated, severe and permanent emotional injuries, severe and permanent psychological injuries, anguish, distress, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, lost earnings, medical expenses and legal expenses and claims damages for the aforesaid injuries and accordingly has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

MUNICIPAL LIABILITY AGAINST DEFENDANTS CITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS AFFORDED BY 42 U.S.C. §1983, §1985 AND §1988

99. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 98, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

100. Defendants The City and NYPD knew or should have known of its employees, agents and/or servants propensity to engage in the illegal and wrongful acts detailed above.

101. Prior to the dates of occurrence as set forth herein, The City and NYPD developed and maintained policies and/or customs exhibiting deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of persons in the City of New York, which policies and/or customs caused the violation of the plaintiff's rights.

102. At all relevant times herein, while at The Police Academy and intermittently thereafter, Patrol Officers and Police Officers including the named defendants receive training and instruction formulated by The City and NYPD and said training includes instruction as to custom and practice of The City and NYPD and same relates to the arrest procedure and procedure surrounding stops and frisks. Said custom and practice, and said training and instruction regarding arrests, stops and frisks, by the very nature of the custom and practice violate the civil rights of the public, including the plaintiff herein, and said custom and practice infringe upon the rights of the public at large, including the plaintiff herein. In this subject case, the enforcement of the said custom and practice did in fact violate the rights of the plaintiff herein.

103. Prior to and including the dates of occurrences as set forth herein, upon information and belief, The City and NYPD developed and maintained policies and/or customs contributing to the causation of the subject incidents and the plaintiff's injuries, such as racial profiling and the use and enforcement of a quota system with respect to stops, frisks, searches, police encounters, investigations and arrests.

104. Upon information and belief, it was the policy and/or custom of The City and NYPD to improperly and inadequately investigate citizen and other complaints of police misconduct, and acts of misconduct were instead tolerated by The City and NYPD, including, but not limited to the incidents where defendants and their supervisors have in the past falsely arrested individuals without probable cause, and made, and allowed other fellow police officers and others of its employees to make false entries in official police department records, and to issue false and fraudulent criminal complaints and accusatory instruments, to cover up and hide their wrongful conduct.

105. It was the policy and/or custom of The City and NYPD to fail to take the steps to discipline, train, supervise or otherwise correct the improper, illegal conduct of the individual

defendants in this and in similar cases involving misconduct, thereby failing to adequately discourage further constitutional violations on the part of its police officers. The City and NYPD did not require appropriate in-service training or re-training of officers who were known to have engaged in police misconduct.

106. As a result of the above described policies and/or customs, police officers of NYPD believed that their actions would not be properly monitored by supervisory officers and that misconduct would not be investigated or sanctioned, but would be tolerated.

107. The above policies and/or customs demonstrated a deliberate indifference on the part of the policymakers of The City and NYPD to the constitutional rights of persons within the City of New York and were the cause of the violations of the plaintiff's rights alleged herein.

108. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff suffered injuries including but not limited to severe and permanent personal physical injuries, loss of freedom, loss of enjoyment of life, had his civil rights violated, severe and permanent emotional injuries, severe and permanent psychological injuries, anguish, distress, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, lost earnings, medical expenses and legal expenses and claims damages for the aforesaid injuries and accordingly has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

**UNREASONABLE AND EXCESSIVE FORCE
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS AFFORDED BY
42 U.S.C. §1983, §1985 AND §1988**

109. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 108, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

110. By their conduct, defendants under color of law deprived Mr. Coward of his constitutional rights to be free from excessive and unreasonable force.

111. Plaintiff claims compensatory and punitive damages for the injuries set forth above and accordingly has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

112. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 111, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

113. By reason of defendants' aforesaid acts, specifically in the course of their false arrest and imprisonment of the plaintiff, defendants committed the torts of assault and battery upon him.

114. That at all relevant times herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees were under a duty to protect Mr. Coward from the violation of his civil rights, menacing, assault, battery, excessive force, brutality, and/or other intentional acts, negligence, recklessness and/or want of care in his unlawful detention and/or arrest by the NYPD police officers committing said acts.

115. That at all relevant times herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees menaced, assaulted, battered, and used excessive force, maliciousness and brutality in the arrest, detention and custody of Mr. Coward.

116. That at all relevant times herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees caused Mr. Coward to reasonably apprehend that he was about to be harmfully and offensively contacted in his arrest and detention.

117. That at all relevant times herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees offensively contacted and harmed Mr. Coward during his arrest and detention.

118. That at all relevant times herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees acted in an unsafe and unreasonable manner in the arrest, detention and custody of Mr. Coward under the circumstances and conditions then and there existing.

119. That at all relevant times herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees were negligent, reckless and intentional in their failure to protect Mr. Coward from the violation of his civil rights, menacing, assault, battery, excessive force and brutality in his arrest and/or detention.

120. That solely as a result of the negligence, recklessness and/or intentional acts of defendants as aforesaid, plaintiff suffered injuries including but not limited to severe and permanent personal physical injuries, loss of freedom, loss of enjoyment of life, had his civil rights violated, severe and permanent emotional injuries, severe and permanent psychological injuries, anguish, distress, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, lost earnings, medical expenses and legal expenses and claims damages for the aforesaid injuries and accordingly has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

121. That solely as a result of the negligence, recklessness and/or intentional acts of defendants as aforesaid, Mr. Coward suffered great humiliation, degradation, emotional injuries; loss

of freedom; deprivation of his state and federal constitutional rights; serious, severe and permanent personal injuries and disabilities; pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life; economic harm; was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled; sustained severe mental anguish, nervous shock and great physical pain and has been damaged accordingly in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

122. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 121, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

123. By their foregoing acts, specifically their false arrest and unlawful imprisonment of him, their assault and battery upon him, defendants intended to and did cause the foregoing harm to plaintiff.

124. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees acted intentionally and/or with a reckless disregard for the likelihood of causing emotional distress to plaintiff in fraudulently and maliciously pursuing the malfeasance, including all acts further thereto as set forth above.

125. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees acted intentionally and/or with a reckless disregard for the likelihood of causing emotional distress to plaintiff in being verbally abusive, intimidating and threatening to him.

126. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees acted heinously and beyond the standards of civilized decency.

127. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees' conduct was utterly intolerable in a civilized society.

128. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees committed these acts in public.

129. That solely as a result of the negligence, recklessness and/or intentional acts of defendants as aforesaid, Mr. Coward suffered great humiliation, degradation, emotional injuries; loss of freedom; deprivation of his state and federal constitutional rights; serious, severe and permanent personal injuries and disabilities; pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life; economic harm; was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled; sustained severe mental anguish, nervous shock and great physical pain and has been damaged accordingly in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

130. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 129, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

131. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees were under an affirmative duty to refrain from abusing their power and position and from fraudulently and maliciously pursuing the malfeasance, including all acts further thereto as set forth above.

132. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees knew or reasonably should have known that the malfeasance could lead to plaintiff's harm.

133. That at all times relevant herein, plaintiff justifiably relied upon defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees to conduct themselves properly as public officials and not to abuse their power and position in the manner as set forth above.

134. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees breached their duty to plaintiff by abusing their power and position as set forth above.

135. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees were under an affirmative duty to treat plaintiff with courtesy, professionalism and respect.

136. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees knew or reasonably should have known that failing and/or refusing to treat plaintiff with courtesy, professionalism and respect could lead to his harm under the circumstances then and there existing.

137. That at all times relevant herein, plaintiff justifiably relied upon defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees to treat him with courtesy, professionalism and respect.

138. That at all times relevant herein, defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees breached their duty to plaintiff in being verbally abusive, intimidating and threatening to him and his family.

139. That solely as a result of the negligence of defendants as aforesaid, Mr. Coward suffered injuries including but not limited to severe and permanent emotional injuries, severe and permanent psychological injuries, anguish, distress, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, severe and permanent personal physical injuries, loss of enjoyment of life, had his civil rights violated, lost earnings, medical expenses and legal expenses and claims damages for the aforesaid injuries and accordingly has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO INTERVENE

140. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 139, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

141. Each and every individual defendant had an affirmative duty to intervene on Mr. Coward's behalf to prevent the violation of his constitutional rights.

142. The individual defendants failed to intervene on Mr. Coward's behalf to prevent the violation of his constitutional rights despite having had a realistic opportunity to do so.

143. As a result of the aforementioned conduct of the individual defendants, Mr. Coward's constitutional rights were violated and he was subjected to excessive force, causing him to suffer injuries including but not limited to severe and permanent emotional injuries, severe and permanent psychological injuries, anguish, distress, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, severe and permanent personal physical injuries, loss of enjoyment of life, had his civil rights violated, lost earnings, medical expenses and legal expenses and claims damages for the aforesaid injuries and accordingly has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

MALICIOUS ABUSE OF PROCESS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

144. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 151, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

145. Defendants abused the legal process to place Mr. Coward under arrest.

146. Defendants arrested Mr. Coward in order to obtain a collateral objective outside the legitimate ends of the legal process.

147. Defendants acted with intent to do harm to Mr. Coward without excuse or justification.

148. That solely as a result of the negligence, recklessness and/or intentional acts of defendants as aforesaid, Mr. Coward suffered great humiliation, degradation, emotional injuries; loss of freedom; deprivation of his state and federal constitutional rights; serious, severe and permanent personal injuries and disabilities; pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life; economic harm; was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled; sustained severe mental anguish, nervous shock and great physical pain and has been damaged accordingly in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

DELAY AND DENIAL OF MEDICAL TREATMENT AND FAILURE TO PROTECT WHILE IN CUSTODY VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS AFFORDED BY 42 U.S.C. §1983, §1985 AND §1988

149. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 148, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

150. By their conduct and under color of law, defendants deprived Mr. Coward of his constitutional rights to immediate medical treatment and failed to protect him once he became a prisoner, thus perpetuating and exacerbating his physical and mental pain and suffering.

151. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff suffered injuries including but not limited to severe and permanent personal physical injuries, loss of freedom, loss of enjoyment of life, had his

civil rights violated, severe and permanent emotional injuries, severe and permanent psychological injuries, anguish, distress, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, lost earnings, medical expenses and legal expenses and claims damages for the aforesaid injuries and accordingly has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
NEGLIGENT HIRING AND RETENTION

152. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 151, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

153. Upon information and belief, defendants failed to use reasonable care in the hiring and retention of the aforesaid defendants who conducted and participated in the arrest of Mr. Coward.

154. Defendants knew, or should have known in the exercise of reasonable care, the propensities of the individual defendants to engage in the wrongful conduct heretofore alleged in this Verified Complaint.

155. That solely as a result of the negligence, recklessness and/or intentional acts of defendants as aforesaid, Mr. Coward suffered great humiliation, degradation, emotional injuries; loss of freedom; deprivation of his state and federal constitutional rights; serious, severe and permanent personal injuries and disabilities; pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life; economic harm; was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled; sustained severe mental anguish, nervous shock and

great physical pain and has been damaged accordingly in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

THIRTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

NEGLIGENT TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

156. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 155, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

157. Upon information and belief, defendants failed to use reasonable care in the training and supervision of the aforesaid defendants who conducted and participated in the arrest of Mr. Coward.

158. That solely as a result of the negligence, recklessness and/or intentional acts of defendants as aforesaid, Mr. Coward suffered great humiliation, degradation, emotional injuries; loss of freedom; deprivation of his state and federal constitutional rights; serious, severe and permanent personal injuries and disabilities; pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life; economic harm; was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled; sustained severe mental anguish, nervous shock and great physical pain and has been damaged accordingly in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

FOURTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

MALICIOUS PROSECUTION

159. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 158, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

160. As a result of the foregoing malicious prosecution, plaintiff suffered injuries including but not limited to severe and permanent personal physical injuries, loss of freedom, loss of enjoyment of life, had his civil rights violated, severe and permanent emotional injuries, severe and permanent psychological injuries, anguish, distress, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, lost earnings, medical expenses and legal expenses and claims damages for the aforesaid injuries and accordingly has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

FIFTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

NEGLIGENCE

161. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 160, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

162. That defendants were negligent in the false arrests, unlawful imprisonments and malicious prosecution of Mr. Coward; in failing to use such care in the performance of police duties as a reasonably prudent and careful police officer would have used under similar circumstances without any negligence on the part of Mr. Coward contributing thereto; and defendants were negligent in hiring and retaining a persons who were unfit to serve as police officers and who they knew or should have known had dangerous propensities and lack of proper temperament, in that

defendants failed to exercise reasonable precautions in employing the aforesaid police officers and failing to properly investigate their background and that these police officers were otherwise unfit to serve as police officers for defendants; and defendants were negligent in its instructions of its police officers b not exercising care in instructing them as to their deportment, behavior and conduct as police officers and representatives of defendants and in training and instructions, among other things of the proper conduct of police officers in making an arrest and what they should do following an arrest of an individual.

163. That defendants are liable for the conduct of their agents, servants and/or employees by virtue of *respondeat superior*.

164. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff suffered injuries including but not limited to severe and permanent personal physical injuries, loss of freedom, loss of enjoyment of life, had his civil rights violated, severe and permanent emotional injuries, severe and permanent psychological injuries, anguish, distress, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, lost earnings, medical expenses and legal expenses and claims damages for the aforesaid injuries and accordingly has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

SIXTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

PUNITIVE DAMAGES

165. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 164, inclusive, of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

166. Due to the above, Mr. Coward should be awarded punitive damages as against the defendants in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, NOEL COWARD, demands judgment against the defendants stated herein under the first cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter; under the second cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter; under the third cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter; under the fourth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter; under the fifth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter; under the sixth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter; under the seventh cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter; under the eighth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter, under the ninth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter, under the tenth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter, under the eleventh cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have

jurisdiction over this matter, under the twelfth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter, under the thirteenth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter, under the fourteenth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter, under the fifteenth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter, and under the sixteenth cause of action in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction over this matter, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York
October 28, 2014

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Di Gianni Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

ROBERT J. DI GIANNI JR., ESQ.
Attorney for Plaintiff
159 20th Street, Suite 1B-20
Brooklyn, New York 11232
(718) 245-6980

